



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 5/13/2004

GAIN Report Number: BK4012

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Q Fever Outbreak Reported in Banja Luka

2004

Approved by:

Sarah Hanson
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Sanela Stanojcic

Report Highlights:

Approximately 100 suspected cases of human Q fever have been reported in Banja Luka with the Institute for Health Protection declaring an epidemic. The disease was likely contracted from nomadic sheep flocks, and the regional veterinary inspection service is ordering farmers to relocate. The Republika Srpska Chief Veterinarian stated blood tests would likely confirm Q fever. Veterinarian officials are working to track and test suspected flocks.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[BK]

Approximately 100 suspected human cases of Q fever have been reported in the town of Banja Luka (in the northwestern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina) in the past five days. The Institute for Health Protection declared Q fever epidemic in that area. Approximately 40 patients have been hospitalized because of high fever and atypical pneumonia. The City Hospital reported that the patients are mostly from the urban areas of Banja Luka. It is suspected that the disease was contracted from flocks of nomadic sheep that are present in the area. Veterinarians are working to track and test the suspected flocks.

The Chief Veterinarian from the Republika Srpska reported that the clinical signs are obvious and blood tests will most likely confirm Q fever. Such outbreaks are common in the rural areas this time of year. The regional veterinary inspection service has ordered farmers to relocate and to keep sheep flocks far from human settlements. Suspected green areas will be disinfected in next few days.